

Preliminary Amendment
Ser. No. 10/796,362Amendments to the Claims

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) A conferencing method for establishing a conference call in a telecommunications system, comprising:

receiving input signals from a communication device of a subscriber, wherein the input signals comprise a conference code indicative of the subscriber's desire to establish a conference call and a group code indicative of a group of participants;

automatically setting up a conference call in a conferencing bridge in response to the conference code;

automatically obtaining contact numbers for the participants in response to the group code;

automatically calling the contact numbers for each participant; and

connecting a communication device of each participant to the conferencing bridge when each communication device for each participant answers in response to the calling.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the input signals comprise a series of DTMF signals.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the conference code starts with a "#" (pound) key.

25. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the conferencing bridge for the conference is selected based on a conference profile for the subscriber.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the conference profile is determined in accordance with a contact number for the communication device of the subscriber.

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27. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising electronically validating the subscriber to verify his ability to establish the conference call.
28. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein obtaining contact numbers for the participants further comprises using a contact number for the communication device of the subscriber.
29. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein automatically calling the contact numbers for each participant further comprises notifying each participant of the contact number for the communication device of the subscriber.
30. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein automatically calling the contact numbers for each participant further comprises providing a message to each participant when each participant answers in response to the calling.
31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the message informs each participant of the conference call, and further comprising receiving at least one input signal from the communication devices of the participants evidencing their desire to join the conference call.
32. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the conference code and the group code are entered concurrently in the communication device of the subscriber.
33. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising, prior to receiving input signals from a communication device of a subscriber, receiving from the subscriber the contact numbers for the participants corresponding to the group code, and storing the contact numbers for the participants under the group code in the system.
34. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the received contact numbers for the participants corresponding to the group code is received via the Internet.